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Desai sues author for libel

NEW DELHI — Former Indian Prime Minister Moraji Desai said yesterday he had sued investigative reporter Seymour Hersh for libel in U.S. District Court in Chicago for alleging Desai had been in the pay of the CIA.

Desai, 87, said the suit, which seeks \$5 million in damages, was filed on his behalf by a lawyer Friday.

The allegation against Desai, prime minister from 1977 to 1979, was made by Hersh in his book "The Price of Power: Kissinger in the Nixon White House."

Hersh alleged Desai had given the Nixon administration secret information during the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war and had been a Central Intelligence Agency agent during the Johnson administration, receiving \$20,000 a year.

Hersh said in an interview last week that he stood by the allegation in his book concerning Desai.